

Message Text

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SUBJECT: VIEWS OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT AND SOCIAL DEMOCRAT LEADERS
ON MORO GOVERNMENT AND RECENT CRISIS

SUMMARY: IN RECENT (SEPERATE) MEETINGS WITH AMBASSADOR, EX-DIRECTOR OF STATE RADIO/TV NETWORK BERNABEI, SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF DC PARTY SECRETARY FANFANI, AND PRESIDENT OF SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY TANASSI TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT THEY ARE CONTENT WITH AND INTEND TO SUPPORT MORO GOVERNMENT. TANASSI AND BERNABEI ALSO SUBSTANTIATED REPORTS FROM OTHER EMBASSY SOURCES ON REASONS FOR OUSTER OF EX-INTERIOR MINISTER TAVIANI AND SWITCH OF ANDREOTTI OUT OF DEFENSE MINISTRY POSITION. TANASSI INDICATED THAT HE IS NO LONGER ACTIVELY PRESSING FOR EARLY NATIONAL ELECTIONS. BERNABEI EXPRESSED HOPE OF DC PARTY THAT SCHEDULED REGIONAL ELECTIONS NEXT SPRING CAN BE POSTPONED. END SUMMARY.

1. AMBASSADOR MET ON DECEMBER 3 WITH CONFIDANT OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY SECRETARY FANFANI AND FORMER ITALIAN RADIO-TV DIRECTOR ETTORE BERNABEI. BERNABEI TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT FANFANI IS STRONGLY SUPPORTING THE MORO GOVERNMENT AND THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO DC LEADERS ARE EXCELLENT. ACCORDING TO BERNABEI, FANFANI HOPES THAT THE MORO GOVERNMENT WILL BE ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING POSITIVE IN DEALING WITH MAJOR ECONOMIC PROBLEMS PRIOR TO THE SCHEDULED SPRING REGIONAL ELECTIONS. FANFANI HOPES, HOWEVER, THAT THE REGIONAL ELECTIONS

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CAN BE POSTPONED, PERHAPS UNTIL THE FALL, SO THAT THE DC CAN

PRESENT A CREDIBLE RECORD TO THE VOTERS. HOWEVER, FANFANI IS NOT RPT NOT PRESENTLY THINKING IN TERMS OF TRYING TO SUBSTITUTE NATIONAL ELECTIONS FOR THE REGIONAL ONES AND, INDEED, WISHES TO AVOID EARLY NATIONAL ELECTIONS. ACCORDING TO BERNABEI, FANFANI IS OPTIMISTIC REGARDING THE LONGEVITY OF THE MORO GIVERNMENT AND HOPES THAT IT WILL LAST AT LEAST UNTIL THE REGIONAL ELECTIONS.

2. ASKED ABOUT THE DEPARTURE OF INTERIOR MINISTER TAVIANI FROM THE GOVERNMENT, BERNABEI SAID THAT THERE HAD DEVELOPED A GENERAL CONSENSUS IN THE DC THAT TAVIANI WOULD HAVE TO GO-- BOTH BECAUSE OF HIS UNSATISFACTORY LEADERSHIP OF POLICE EFFORTS TO CUBR POLITICAL VIOLENCE AND COMMON CRIMINALITY AND BECAUSE OF HIS INSISTENCE ON THE IDEA THAT ALL POLITICAL VIOLENCE COMES FROM THE FAR RIGHT. BERNABEI SAID THAT THE TAVIANI OUSTER WAS NOT DIRECTLY LINKED WITH THE SHIFT OF ANDREOTTI FROM THE DEFENSE MINISTRY TO THE MINISTRY OF BUDGET AND SOUTHERN DEVELOPMENT. ANDREOTTI WAS INSTEAD MOVED FROM DEFENSE TO SMOOTH THE FEATHERS OF THE MINISTARY, WHO WERE UNHAPPY WITH HIS CONDUCT OF THE DEFENSE MINISTRY.

3. IN A CONVERSATION ON DECEMBER 4 WITH THE AMBASSDOR, SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY PRESIDENT TANASSI COMMENTED FAVORABLY ON THE NEW MORO GOVERNMENT AND GAVE THE SAME INTERPRETATION AS BERNABEI TO THE SHIFTS OF TAVIANI AND ANDREOTTI. TANASSI STATED THAT A NUMBER OF TOP MILITARY MEN HAD COME DIRECTLY TO HIM TO COMPLAIN ABOUT ANDREOTTI'S POLICIES AND SPECIFICALLY ABOUT THE OUSTER AND SUBSEQUENT ARREST OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (SID) CHIEF, GENERAL MICELI. TANASSI CLAIMED MUCH OF THE CREDIT FOR LEVERING ANDREOTTI OUT OF HIS JOB, ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT MAKE CLEAR HOW HIS INFLUENCE AHD BEEN BROUGHT TO BEAR.

4. TANASSI EXPRESSED GREAT SATISFACTION WITH THE NOVEMBER 17 LOCAL ELECTION RESULTS (WHICH REGISTERED IMPRESSIVE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC GAINS) AND OPTIMISTICALLY PREDICTED THAT HIS PARTY WOULD GAIN SIGNIFICANTLY IN THE EVENT OF REGIONAL OF EARLY NATIONAL ELECTIONS. HOWEVER, TANASSI SAID THAT HE WAS NOT ACTIVELY SEEKING TO BRING ABOUT EARLY NATIONAL ELECTIONS ALTHOUGH EVENTS MIGHT LEAD TO SUCH AN OUTCOME. LIKE FANFANI, TANASSI EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE MORO GOVERNMENT WOULD

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LAST MORE THAN JUST A FEW MONTHS.

5. COMMENT: OTHER EMBASSY SOURCES HAVE COMMENTED ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE FANFANI-MORO ALLIANCE AND BERNABEI'S COMMENTS RIGHT TRUE IN THIS RESPECT. BOTH BERNABEI AND TANASSI'S INTERPRETATION OF THE TAVIANI AND ANDREOTTI SHIFTS HAVE ALSO BEEN SUBSTANTIATED BY OTHER SOURCES, ALTHOUGH IT IS UNCERTAIN WHAT ROLE TANASSI WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PLAY

IN THE ANDREOTTI SWITCH. IT IS PARTICULARLY INTERESTING THAT
TANASSI INDICATED SUCH SATISFACTION WITH THE TWO-PARTY MORO
GOVERNMENT AND IS NO LONGER TALKING ABOUT THE NEED FOR EARLY
NATIONAL ELECTIONS. THIS TENDS TO SUPPORT OUR IMPRESSION THAT
THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS WILL NOT BE THE ONES TO PULL THE PLUG ON THE
MORO GOVERNMENT WHEN IT RUNS INTO INEVITABLE ROUGH SLEDDING
IN THE COMING MONTHS.VOLPE

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